

Minutes for Super Board Meeting – March 28, 2018

Attending: Caraline Sprague, Sue Bailey, Mary King, Sharon Berry, James Walker, Therese Lounsbury, Chum Sumner, Dennis Richter, Jacki Murano, Kathy Larsen, Maria Cunningham, Cindy Lamore, Kelly Holland, Erika Bailey

Visitors: 9

Called to Order at 7:07pm by Chris Pratt

Board Reorganization:

Motion made for Chum as Chair by Cindy, seconded by Kathy. Motion carried.

Motion made for Cindy as Vice Chair by Erika, seconded by Sue. Motion carried.

Motion made for Therese as Clerk by Cindy, seconded by Erika. Motion carried.

Motion made for Karen as Treasurer by Jacki, seconded by Kathy. Motion carried.

Hearing of Visitors/Presentations: None

Review Focus of the Meeting (Chair):

Agenda Additions/deletions – add to Action Items the Grievance Meeting

Motion to approve the Minutes of February 5, 2018, made by Cindy, seconded by Mary. Motion carried.

Discussion/Clarification of EBoard and Super Board Member Structure:

Offered as nominees to Executive Board: Chum Sumner for Halifax, Mary King for Readsboro, Jacki Murano for Searsburg, Cindy Lamore for Stamford, Sharon Berry for Whitingham, Therese Lounsbury for Wilmington.

Motion to nominate the slate by Sharon, seconded by Erika. Motion carried.

Super Board Structure – Chum presented the information from the AOE on re-structuring under ACT 46. Motion to have three representatives from each town that has a school, and one rep from the town without a school made by Mary, seconded by Erika. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda:

Review of 2018-2019 School Calendar – Chris presented calendar for the next school year per Windham County; Chum expressed concern for what happens if Massachusetts has different vacation breaks to Vermont students, could be of concern for parents with Elementary students in Vermont, and High School students in Massachusetts; have paid extra in the past for extra bus runs; discussion of in-service days and the rhythm of learning with vacation breaks and snow days

Action Items:

Grievance from the Para-Educators – Violation of Article 18: subsection 18.5 of the 2015-2017 Agreement – Chris Pratt gave introduction and handed out the letter that was received from Norm Bartlett, representing the Vermont-NEA; Chris explained difficulty in payroll duties for accomplishing this; Norm presented a handout of “Annual Equalization of Pay For School-Year Paraeducators”, explained what the hourly wage rates are, the number of student days in the school year, would make approximately \$840 per pay period if equalized, there are 22 pay periods, when snow days or absences occur – the amount could be adjusted at the end of the year; Nicole Janovsky (Para at Twin Valley) said that she has had the equal installment payment for the past 13 years, that this past year was the first that it was denied; Liz Marshall spoke for a number of other Paras that have had this opportunity before

and count on this level of consistency for their household budgets; Karen Atwood explained that from a payroll accounting aspect, the hours worked by Paras varies greatly, and it is against the law to leave an employee with less than minimum wage for a pay period. Karen did reach out to other Business Managers for whether the service was used in other districts, and found that most had moved away from it because of the difficulties in managing it.

Board discussed further and decided to make a decision tonight.

Motion to deny the grievance and pay the Para-Educators for hours worked made by Ericka, seconded by Sharon. Motion carried with one opposing. (Dennis)

Deliberation on SU Certification to Represent (Encl #2) –

Motion that the Windham Southwest Supervisory Union Board, with representation of all school district members, authorize the SU to accept grants, administer and act as the representative for all member districts made by Kathy, seconded by Cindy. Motion carried.

Superintendent's Resignation (Encl #3) – Motion made to accept the resignation of the Superintendent made by Cindy, seconded by Mary. Motion carried.

Next Steps – Superintendent Position – Letter from Secretary Holcombe (Encl #4) - Karen asked to post an advertisement for the job opening. Chum asked for a hiring committee – at least 3 Board Members, 1 Community person, 2 Principals, Karen Atwood, and Mike RobbGrieco. The committee would meet with applicants and make recommendation to the Super Board.

Motion to place Chum, Kathy, Dennis, Karen, Mike on the committee made by Sharon, seconded by Cindy. Motion carried.

Motion to recommend Sandy Pentak (Halifax Principal) and Rebecca Fillion (Twin Valley Elementary Principal) to the hiring committee made by Kathy, seconded by Cindy. Motion carried.

No discussion yet of having our SU merge with another.

CIP Approval – “Continuous Improvement Plan” – SU-wide Comprehensive Needs Assessment directive by the Agency of Education, it is a newly required format and process that takes the place of the WSWSU strategic plan; received 3/23 and must be returned before April 1; Administrators, Chris Pratt and Mike RobbGrieco went through the steps and set goals; Mike explained the funding areas of the plan, Title I spending is narrowing, Chris said they approached it with a design for sustaining programs; AOE will create CIPs for each school, which will allow the principals to report out on. Motion to approve the CIP made by Dennis, seconded by Mary. Motion carried.

Regional Bargaining Unit – Therese is currently representing the Board, need someone to replace Chris. Motion to have Karen Atwood be the second representative from our SU made by Dennis, seconded by Jacki. Motion carried.

Dispersion of ACT 156 Union Transition Facilitation Grant – the side-by-side spent about the same for the creation of the Articles; Karen would like to get the election costs from each District and get those paid, then determine what is left for dispersion; Karen/Chris expressed the need to adjust the space that the SU is occupying from landlord OSEC, currently using more space than they are paying for, and OSEC would like to move them to another area in the building; the server, internet, and phone service would have to be moved at a cost of \$5,600 to \$7,500 and asked that we consider paying for that movement out of our transitional money.

Motion to approve the expenditure of \$7,500 from the transition money to move the SU offices within the OSEC building made by Kathy, seconded by Therese. Motion carried.

Motion to base the disbursement of the balance of the funds on the number of students enrolled in each District made by Kathy, seconded by Sharon. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn made by Dennis, seconded by Cindy.
Adjourned at 9:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Lounsbury 3/28/18

